

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 634

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study on the feasibility of designating the Trail of the Ancients as a national historic trail.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2003

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. BINGAMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a study on the feasibility of designating the Trail of the Ancients as a national historic trail.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the Trail of the Ancients in the Four Cor-
6 ners Area, one of the areas of greatest archae-
7 ological interest in the United States, provides ac-

cess to numerous examples of the Ancestral Puebloan culture;

(2) the Trail highlights areas and sites where—

(A) the earliest inhabitants were Paleo-Americans, nomadic people who traveled through and lived in the area as early as 10,000 B.C.; and

(B) the Ancestral Puebloan Indians lived from approximately 1 to 1300 A.D.;

(3) the Trail features sites that chronicle the Ute and Navajo Indian culture;

(4) the archaeological sites of the area have been well preserved by the semi-arid climate of the area;

(5) national and international recognition of sites in the area has contributed to the wealth of information about the people who have inhabited the area;

(6) the Trail, which is officially designated a Scenic Byway in the States of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico, intersects and shares stops with other Federal and State designated byways and highways, including San Juan Skyway in the State of Colorado and the Utah Bicentennial Highway; and

1 (7) designating the Trail of the Ancients as a
2 national historic trail—

3 (A) would link many of the cultural and
4 recreational sites in the area for the benefit of
5 the traveling public and communities along the
6 Trail; and

7 (B) would not require acquisition of addi-
8 tional land.

9 **SEC. 2. TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS FEASIBILITY STUDY.**

10 Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16
11 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(41) TRAIL OF THE ANCIENTS HISTORIC
14 TRAIL.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Trail of the An-
16 cients, extending approximately 710 miles
17 through the States of Utah, New Mexico, Colo-
18 rado, and Arizona.

19 “(B) REPORT.—On completion of the
20 study under this paragraph, the Secretary shall
21 submit to the Committee on Resources of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee
23 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate
24 a copy of the study.

1 “(C) During the course of the study, the
2 Secretary shall gather the input of affected
3 communities.”.

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